
HOUSE BILL 1560

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives P. Sullivan, Walsh, Pettigrew, Appleton, Simpson, Kenney, Lantz, Santos and O'Brien

Read first time 01/23/2007. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Children's Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to preschool tuition scholarships for children in
2 foster care; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A pilot program for providing preschool
5 tuition scholarships and enrollment assistance for children in foster
6 care is established. The pilot program shall be administered by the
7 department of social and health services in consultation with the
8 Washington state child care resource and referral network and the
9 department of early learning. The department of social and health
10 services shall select for a two-year pilot program three regional
11 offices representing the geographic diversity of the state. The
12 primary purpose of the pilot program is to promote access to high-
13 quality early learning programs for more children in foster care.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of social and health
15 services in consultation with the department of early learning shall
16 establish criteria for identifying high-quality early learning programs
17 for which preschool tuition scholarships may be used.

1 (2) The regional offices selected in subsection (1) of this section
2 shall provide preschool tuition scholarships for children in foster
3 care who are three to five years of age not enrolled in kindergarten
4 and who have been in an out-of-home placement pursuant to chapter 13.34
5 RCW for sixty consecutive days or longer. A total of two hundred
6 preschool tuition scholarships shall be distributed across the three
7 pilot sites. The amount of the scholarship shall be not more than the
8 difference between the usual and customary rate charged by the
9 provider, taking into account the child's age and whether attendance
10 will be full-time or part-time, and the amount of any state child care
11 subsidy for which the child is otherwise eligible.

12 (3) Based upon the criteria developed in subsection (1) of this
13 section, the regional administrators of the offices selected for the
14 pilot program under section 1 of this act shall consult with the local
15 child care resource and referral network to identify community
16 providers where scholarships may be applied and where children in
17 foster care may be referred. The local child care resource and
18 referral network shall assist foster parents with assessing the type of
19 preschool program appropriate for the child's needs and with completing
20 the enrollment process.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act expire July 1,
22 2011.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
24 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
25 June 30, 2007, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
26 void.

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